

Happy Holidays

The year 2000 is quickly approaching. We are into our second year in Corvallis and continue to be happy with our choice of communities. We are settling into our jobs, Jerry at the Conservation Biology Institute and Kristin teaching 5th grade at Jefferson Elementary. We keep busy, but slowly are getting involved with activities outside of work. Here is a quick glimpse of some of the highlights of our past year.



Jerry and his brothers helped his dad create a boardwalk, designed by Kristin, through a wetland area that is being restored.



Guess who? We went to the redwoods over the spring break. The weather was actually very nice and, best of all, there were no other people!



We found a fantastic secluded beach cove while at the redwoods. We didn't see a soul for hours.



Joel, a friend from graduate school in Connecticut, was in the area and got a whirlwind tour of Oregon, including Silver Falls.



The new boardwalk looked great when Spring arrived and water filled the wetland. The bench was made for a neighbor, Dorothy, who said that she needed a place to sit and watch all the birds.



The Jerrys adding some skunk cabbage to a new portion of the restored wetland.



Jerry and Brandon tried out some “new” bikes at the Da Vinci Days celebration in Corvallis.



We took Brandon to Mount St. Helens for a few days of hiking and camping.



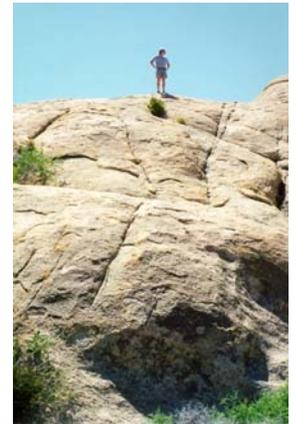
We got adopted by a stray cat this summer. Sassy then provided us with five kittens. We kept her and her kitten Tiggy.



The Jerrys added a new stream bed and some small waterfalls to the wetland area.



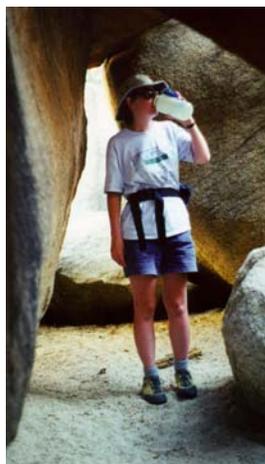
We finally made it to southern California to visit Kristin’s grandmommy, Ruby Britton.



On the way back we went through Joshua’s Tree. The rock texture made it possible to just walk up very steep faces.



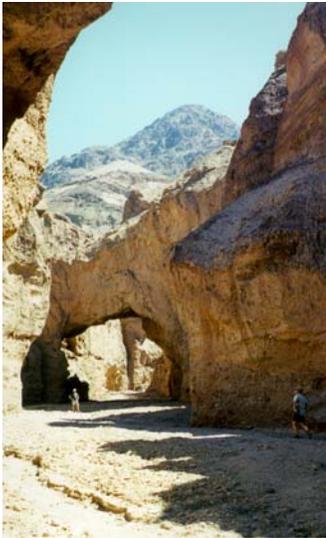
Joshua’s Tree was very spectacular. We were lucky and got to see some plants in flower that only bloom once in a great while



We didn’t let a “little heat” keep us from exploring. We saw big horn sheep, coyotes, and some fantastic plants.



From Joshua’s Tree, we went through the Mojave desert (at night) then spent the next day at Death Valley. Went for a few hikes when the temperature was 108°.



This is a huge natural arch in a side canyon at Death Valley. The reflected heat from the canyon walls was scorching!



Kristin below a dry water fall chute. This is probably very amazing when it floods.



While Mom and Dad Heilman were on vacation for two weeks, the family completely remodeled the kitchen. They are still in shock.



Jerry lost his braid and found a frog.



We had a Halloween costume party and went as bugs. Kristin is a Damsel fly and Jerry is a Gentleman bug.



Kristin's class made five scarecrows for a display at the Corvallis Public library. This is a good example (if somewhat unusual) of how teaching can be a lot of fun.